

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,  
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut  
Chairman

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**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

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**Chairman Shays to Hold March 2 Hearing on  
Overclassification and Pseudo-classification of Information**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing to examine the proliferation of categories of information that are not classified but are withheld from public disclosure.

The hearing on March 2 is a follow-up hearing to one the subcommittee had involving overclassification of information during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. On August 24, 2004, the subcommittee had a hearing entitled, *"Too Many Secrets: Overclassification as a Barrier to Critical Information Sharing."* This hearing examined the extent and impact of overclassification – the excessive designation of official secrets – as an impediment to the enhanced interagency and intergovernmental information sharing recommended by the 9/11 Commission.

The hearing, *"Emerging Threats: Overclassification and Pseudo-classification,"* is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, at 1:00 p.m., in room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

**WITNESS LIST**

***Committee on Government Reform  
Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations***

March 2, 2005

***“Emerging Threats: Overclassification and Pseudo-classification”***

**Panel One**

**Mr. J. William Leonard**, Director  
Information Security Oversight Office  
National Archives and Records Administration

**RADM Christopher A. McMahon**, USMS  
Acting Director, Departmental Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency  
Response  
United States Department of Transportation

Mr. Harold Relyea  
**Specialist in American National Government**  
Congressional Research Service (CRS)  
Library of Congress

**Panel Two**

**Mr. Richard Ben-Veniste**, Commissioner  
National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

**Panel Three**

**Mr. Thomas Blanton**  
Executive Director  
National Security Archive  
George Washington University

**Mr. Harry A. Hammitt**  
Editor and Publisher  
Access Reports: Freedom of Information  
Lynchburg, Virginia